

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of protecting an audio signal against copying, the method comprising the step of mixing the audio signal with at least one non-audible disturbance signal.

5 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein a first disturbance signal is a low-frequency signal which is added to the audio signal, the low-frequency disturbance signal preferably having a frequency of approximately 2 Hz.

10 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein a second disturbance signal is a high-frequency signal which is multiplied with the audio signal, the high-frequency disturbance signal having a frequency of approximately 20 kHz.

15 4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the audio signal is a digital signal representation involving a sampling frequency, and wherein the second disturbance signal has a frequency which varies in time, preferably from approximately half to approximately three quarters of the sampling frequency.

20 5. The method according to claim 3, wherein the second disturbance signal is modulated by a modulating signal, said modulating signal comprising either alone or in combination:

25 - spoken messages,
- the original audio signal,
- the inverted original audio signal.

30 6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the second disturbance signal is frequency modulated by the modulating signal.

35 7. The method according to claim 5, wherein the second disturbance signal is amplitude modulated by the modulating signal.

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8. An information carrier comprising a recording medium storing an audio signal which is copy protected by mixing the audio signal prior to the storing with at least one non-audible disturbance signal.

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9. A device for protecting audio signals against copying, the device comprising signal generation means for generating at least one non-audible disturbance signal, mixing means for mixing the at least one disturbance signal with the audio signal, and output means for outputting the resulting mixed audio signal.

10. The device according to claim 9, wherein the mixing means comprise adding means.

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11. The device according to claim 9, wherein the mixing means comprise multiplication means.

12. The device according to claim 9, wherein the signal generation means are arranged for generating a first, low-frequency disturbance signal which is added to the audio signal, the low-frequency disturbance signal preferably having a frequency of approximately 2 Hz.

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13. The device according to claim 9, wherein the signal generation means are arranged for generating a second, high-frequency disturbance signal which is multiplied with the audio signal, the high-frequency disturbance signal having a frequency of approximately 20 kHz.

14. The device according to claim 13, the device being arranged for copy protecting an audio signal which is a digital signal representation involving a sampling frequency, and wherein the signal generating means are arranged for generating a second disturbance signal having a frequency which varies in time, preferably from approximately half to approximately three quarters of the sampling frequency.

15. The device according to claim 13, wherein the mixing means are arranged for modulating the second disturbance signal by a modulating signal, said modulating signal comprising either alone or in combination:

- spoken messages,
- the original audio signal,
- the inverted original audio signal.

16. The device according to claim 15, wherein the mixing means are arranged for frequency modulating the second disturbance signal by the modulating signal.

17. The device according to claim 15, wherein the mixing means are arranged for amplitude modulating the second disturbance signal by the modulating signal.

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